Appln No. 09/692,747
Amdt date August 18, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 18, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   An on-line system for printing a value bearing item (VBI) comprising:

a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network and utilized by a user for registering with the on-line system;

a client system for generating secret key for identifying information specific to a first computer used by the user for registering with the on-line system, wherein the secret information includes a hash message authentication key (HMK) and the HMK is encrypted;

a server system capable of communicating with the one or more user computers over the computer network for receiving user information and the secret key information including the encrypted HMK from the first computer and registering a user storing the secret information including the encrypted HMK, wherein the server system decrypts the encrypted HMK to authenticate the user and the first computer;

a user interface to inform the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and to give the user an option of re-registering the user on a second computer, if the second computer used by the user to access the system is not the same as the first computer used for registering the user; and

a re-registration user interface for requiring the user to re-register if when the secret information including the encrypted HMK generated by the first computer is not the same as new secret information including an encrypted second HMK generated by a second computer not the same as the first computer the user selects the option of re-registering on the second computer, wherein the re-registration user interface requires the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on-line system.

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2.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more client software resident on the one or more user computers, wherein each client software include a graphical user interface (GUI).

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is randomly generated in a user computer at the time of user registration with the on-line system.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is encrypted using a Triple DES key derived from a user passphrase.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is used to sign individual server requests and authenticate the user for each server request.

8.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is stored at the user computer.

9.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is changed on a periodic basis.

10.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, wherein the server system includes a cryptographic module for storing the secret key in a secure database.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the secret key is stored as a part of a user PSD package.

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12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the cryptographic module uses a corresponding private key to decrypt the encrypted secret keys.

13.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing the VBI, wherein the VBI bears postage value.

14.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing the VBI, wherein the VBI is a ticket.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing the VBI, wherein the VBI is one or more of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method for printing a value bearing item (VBI) by a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

registering by the user with an on-line system for printing the VBI;

generating [[a]]secret key for identifying information specific to a first computer used by the user for registering with the on-line system, the secret information including a hash message authentication key (HMK);

receiving user information and the secret key information from the first computer by a server system capable of communicating with the one or more user computers over the computer network;

storing the received secret information;

identifying using a second computer used by the user to logon to the on-line system using the secret key;

generating a second secret information including a second HMK specific to the second computer;

receiving a second secret information including a second HMK specific to the second computer by the server system;

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comparing the stored secret information including the HMK specific to the first computer with the received second secret information including the second HMK specific to the second computer;

~~informing the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and providing the user with an option of re-registering the user on the second computer;~~ and

requiring the user to re-register ~~by asking the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user~~ with the on-line system responsive to a mismatch between the stored secret information including the HMK and the received second secret information including the second HMK secret key.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of randomly generating the HMK in a user computer at the time of user registration with the on-line system.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of encrypting the HMK..

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of encrypting the HMK using a Triple DES key derived from a user passphrase.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of using the HMK to sign individual server requests and authenticate the user for each server request.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of storing the HMK at the user computer.

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23.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of changing the HMK on a periodic basis.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the secret key in a secure database remote from the user computer.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the secret key as a part of a user PSD package.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a postage value.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a ticket.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing one or more of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

29.   (Currently Amended)   An on-line system for printing a value bearing item (VBI) comprising:

a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network and utilized by a user for registering with the on-line system;

a memory for storing client system for generating information specific to a first computer used by the user for registering with the on-line system, wherein the information comprises a hash message authentication key (HMK) and the HMK is encrypted is used by the server system to identify the first computer;

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a server system capable of communicating with the one or more user computers over the computer network for receiving user information and the~~computer information~~ encrypted HMK from the first computer;

~~a user interface to inform the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and to give the user an option of re-registering the user on a second computer, if the second computer used by the user to access the system is not the same as the first computer used for registering the user;~~ and

a re-registration user interface for requiring the user to re-register ~~if~~ when the HMK generated by the first computer is not the same as a new HMK generated by a second computer not the same as the first computer ~~the user selects the option of re-registering on the second computer, wherein the re-registration user interface requires the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on-line system.~~

30.   (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the information specific to a first computer include one or more of register settings, a processor's ID, machine configuration, a network card ID, and a user's private key.

31.   (Canceled)

32.   (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the information specific to a first computer is encrypted using a Triple DES key derived from a user passphrase.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the server system includes a cryptographic module for storing the information specific to a first computer in a secure database.

34.   (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the VBI bears postage value.

35.   (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the VBI is a ticket.

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36.   (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the VBI is one or more of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

37.   (Currently Amended) A method for printing a value bearing item (VBI) by a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

registering ~~by~~ the user using a first computer with an on-line system for printing ~~a (VBI)~~ the VBI;

~~storing~~ generating secret information including a first hash message authentication key (HMK) and including information specific to [[a]] the first computer ~~used by the user for registering with the on-line system, wherein the information is used by the server system to identify the first computer~~;

receiving user information and the secret information including the first HMK and the information specific to the first computer from the first computer by a server system;

~~identifying~~ using a second computer ~~used~~ by the user to logon to the on-line system ~~using the information specific to the second computer~~;

generating a second secret information including a second HMK specific to the second computer;

comparing the secret information including the first HMK specific to the first computer with the second secret information including the second HMK specific to the second computer;

~~informing the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and providing the user with an option of re-registering the user on the second computer;~~ and

requiring the user to re-register ~~by asking the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user~~ with the on-line system responsive to a mismatch between the secret information including the first HMK and the second secret information including the second HMK.

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38.   (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the information specific to a first computer include one or more of register settings, a processor's ID, machine configuration, a network card ID, and a user's private key.

39.   (Canceled)

40.   (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of encrypting the information specific to a first computer using a Triple DES key derived from a user passphrase.

41.   (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of storing the information specific to a first computer at the user computer.

42.   (Original) The system of claim 37, further comprising the step of storing the information specific to a first computer in a secure database remote from the user computer.

43.   (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a postage value.

44.   (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a ticket.

45.   (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing one or more of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

46.   (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a passphrase from the user to authenticate the user and the second computer.

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47.   (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising receiving a passphrase from the user

to authenticate the user and the second computer.